

FORAGE SUITABILITY GROUP
Wet**FSG No.:** G102AY900SD**Major Land Resource Area:** 102A - Rolling Till Prairie**Physiographic Features**

The soils in this group are found on flood plains and lower stream terraces, and in swales, depressions, and basins on glacial lake, outwash, and till plains and moraines.

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Elevation (feet):	980	1970
Slope (percent):	0	3
Flooding:		
Frequency:	None	Frequent
Duration:	None	Long
Ponding:		
Depth (inches):	0	3
Frequency:	None	Frequent
Duration:	None	
Runoff Class:	Negligible	Medium

Climatic Features

This group occurs in a mid-continental climate characterized by wide seasonal temperature and precipitation fluctuations and extremes.

Annual precipitation varies widely from year to year in MLRA 102A. Average annual precipitation for all climate stations listed below is about 23 inches. About 75 percent of that occurs during the months of April through September. On average, there are about 31 days with greater than .1 inches of precipitation during the same timeframe.

Average annual snowfall ranges from 36 inches at Britton to 48 inches at Tracy. Snow cover at depths greater than 1 inch range from 56 days at Milbank to 105 days at Morris.

Average July temperatures are about 72°F and average January temperatures are about 11°F. Recorded temperature extremes in the MLRA during the years 1961 to 1990 are a low of -40 at Brookings and a high of 108 recorded at both Britton and Milbank. The MLRA lies in USDA Plant Hardiness Zones 4a and 4b.

Average annual wind speeds range from about 8 mph in the eastern part of the MLRA to about 11 mph in the west. The highest wind speeds occur during March through May. It is cloudy about 154 days a year in the west and 166 days in the east. Average morning relative humidity in June is about 86 percent and average afternoon humidity is 59 percent.

The climate data listed in the tables below represent high and low ranges and averages for the climate stations and dates listed. For additional climate data, access the National Water and Climate Center at <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>.

	From	To
Freeze-free period (28 deg)(days): (9 years in 10 at least)	127	145
Last Killing Freeze in Spring (28 deg): (1 year in 10 later than)	May 22	May 11
Last Frost in Spring (32 deg): (1 year in 10 later than)	May 31	May 17
First Frost in Fall (32 deg): (1 year in 10 earlier than)	Sep 08	Sep 19

	From	To
First Killing Freeze in Fall (28 deg): (1 year in 10 earlier than)	Sep 17	Sep 26
Length of Growing Season (32 deg)(days): (9 years in 10 at least)	109	134
Growing Degree Days (40 deg):	4066	4515
Growing Degree Days (50 deg):	2441	2698
Annual Minimum Temperature:	-30	-20
Mean annual precipitation (inches):	19	26

Monthly precipitation (inches) and temperature (F):

2 years in 10:	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>
Precip. Less Than	0.13	0.19	0.28	0.66	1.29	1.83	1.54	0.91	0.68	0.45	0.17	0.10
Precip. More Than	0.97	1.08	2.70	3.68	4.83	4.92	5.21	3.75	4.63	3.32	2.19	1.19
Monthly Average:	0.54	0.59	1.37	2.20	2.88	3.67	3.21	2.77	2.32	1.83	0.96	0.54
Temp. Min.	-2.8	3.1	17.6	32.8	44.6	54.6	59.3	56.2	45.7	34.2	20.5	4.6
Temp. Max.	21.4	26.5	39.3	56.5	70.4	80.5	85.5	82.9	73.2	61.0	42.0	26.6
Temp. Avg.	10.1	15.9	29.0	44.6	57.2	66.8	72.0	69.5	59.3	47.5	30.8	15.6

<u>Climate Station</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
SD1049	Britton, SD	1961	1990
SD1076	Brookings, SD	1961	1990
SD1739	Clark, SD	1961	1990
SD1777	Clear Lake, SD	1961	1990
SD5536	Milbank, SD	1961	1990
MN5400	Milan, MN	1961	1990
MN5638	Morris, MN	1961	1990
MN8323	Tracy, MN	1961	1990

Soil Interpretations

This group consists of poorly drained, coarse to fine textured soils. They are ponded during a portion of the year or have a seasonal water table at or near the surface during part of the growing season.

Drainage Class:	Poorly drained	To	Poorly drained
Permeability Class: (0 - 40 inches)	Rapid	To	Slow
Frost Action Class:	Moderate	To	High

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Depth:	72	
Surface Fragments >3" (% Cover):	0	3
Organic Matter (percent): (surface layer)	1.0	10.0
Electrical Conductivity (mmhos/cm): (0 - 24 inches)	0	8
Sodium Absorption Ratio: (0 - 12 inches)	0	10
Soil Reaction (1:1) Water (pH): (0 - 12 inches)	5.6	8.4
Available Water Capacity (inches): (0 - 60 inches)	5	12
Calcium Carbonate Equivalent (percent): (0 - 12 inches)	0	28

Adapted Species List

The following forage species are considered adapted to grow on the soils in this group. Additional information concerning plant characteristics of a number of the listed species as well as individual cultivars of many those species can be accessed at <http://plants.usda.gov>.

Cool Season Grasses

Creeping foxtail	G
Reed canarygrass	G
Tall wheatgrass	F
Western wheatgrass	F

Warm Season Grasses

Switchgrass	F
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Legumes

Alsike clover	F
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G - Good adaptation for forage production on this group of soils in this MLRA

F - Fair adaptation but will not produce at its highest potential

Production Estimates

Production estimates listed here should only be used for making general management recommendations. Onsite production information should always be used for making detailed planning and management recommendations.

The high forage production estimates listed below are based on dense, vigorous stands of climatically adapted, superior performing cultivars. They are properly fertilized for high yields and pest infestations are kept below economic thresholds. Mechanical harvests are managed to maintain stand life by cutting at appropriate stages of maturity and harvest intervals. If grazed, optimum beginning and ending grazing heights are adhered to. Adequate time is allowed for plant recovery before entering winter dormancy under both uses.

The production estimates listed below represent total annual above ground plant production on an air-dry-matter basis. Estimates of hay and grazing yields can be calculated from these numbers by multiplying them by a harvest efficiency. A 70 percent harvest efficiency is commonly used when converting to hay yields. Pasture harvest efficiency is highly dependent on the grazing management system applied, ranging from 25 to 50 percent.

Forage Crop	Management Intensity	
	<u>High</u> (lbs/ac)	<u>Low</u> (lbs/ac)
Creeping foxtail	8600	4300
Reed canarygrass	10300	5100

Forage Growth Curves

Growth curves estimate the seasonal distribution of growth of the various forage crops. They indicate when the forages may be available for grazing or mechanical harvest.

Growth Curve Number: ND0002
Growth Curve Name: Cool season grass
Growth Curve Description: Cool season grass

Percent Production by Month											
<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>
0	0	0	5	40	35	10	5	5	0	0	0

Growth Curve Number: ND0003**Growth Curve Name:** Warm season grass**Growth Curve Description:** Warm season grass

Percent Production by Month											
<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>
0	0	0	0	10	40	35	15	0	0	0	0

Soil Limitations

The primary limitation for these soils is wetness, which may severely limit species selection, delay planting and harvesting of forage crops or result in wheel track ruts or livestock poach marks from hooves. The result can be soil compaction, injury to plants, poor soil aeration affecting plant growth, and problems with movement of livestock and machinery. Many of the soils in this group are subject to flooding or ponding that will adversely impact forage production when it occurs during the growing season. The time period plants are under water and the soil temperature while it occurs are important for the survival of forage crops. Dormant forages are little affected by inundation unless the water turns to ice.

Management Interpretations

When establishing new stands or renovating older stands, select species that are tolerant of poorly drained soils. Excluding livestock and machinery during extended periods of soil wetness will reduce poaching, rutting, and soil compaction.

FSG Documentation**Similar FSGs:****FSG ID**

G102AY895S

FSG Narrative

Saline soils have elevated levels of salinity and/or sodicity that are detrimental to plant growth.

Inventory Data References

Agriculture Handbook 296-Land Resource Regions and Major Land Resource Areas

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) National Water and Climate Center data

USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Maps

National Soil Survey Information System (NASIS) for soil surveys in South Dakota and Minnesota counties in MLRA 102A

South Dakota NRCS SDTG and Minnesota NRCS FOTG

NRCS National Range and Pasture Handbook

Various Agricultural Research Service, Cooperative Extension Service, and NRCS research trials for plant adaptation and production.

State Correlation

This site has been correlated with the following states: Minnesota and South Dakota

Forage Suitability Group Approval

Original Author: Tim Nordquist

Original Date: 1/31/02

Approval By: Dave Schmidt

Approval Date: 1/8/03